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DISCUSSION.

PRESIDENT JORDAN of Leland Stanford Junior University, being called upon to speak on the subject of athletics, then addressed the association as follows :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I may say that I have never heard a discussion on any college matter that I agree with so thoroughly from one end to the other. I feel under very great obligation to all the different speakers.

I think that we in Stanford University are ready to join with Professor Woodward's scheme of putting the whole matter of athletics in charge of a composite committee. Two years ago in California we abolished the professional coach, and we shall, as soon as we can get around to it, abolish the gate money. The rest of the evils will mostly take care of themselves.

In regard to the professional coach we have had rather a peculiar experience. It was the great fortune of California that when football began Walter Camp came as professional coach. He was with us at Stanford some four years, and he started the whole matter—so far as both the institutions on the coast are concerned—on a sound basis. He was really a college man with college instincts, and his influence has not yet lapsed on the coast. We have a great advantage there in having only two great institutions ; there is but one great game, and when that is over everything drops. We do not find it necessary to play right and left in every direction.

It seems to me—without trying to go over the ground so well gone over already—that one very important element rests with the faculty itself. It is the absolute duty of the faculty to see that there is nobody in the institution for football alone. The football player should be compelled to go right on with his work in essentially the same way as the others do. It is impossible for him to do that and play fifteen or twenty different games ; and these fifteen or twenty different games are an unmitigated evil. It is impossible for ten, or twelve or fifteen games to be played by the team of any institution without that institution suffering. The faculty must join in overlooking the fact that these men are not doing the work that they ought to do. And that brings up another duty of the faculty. It is impossible for the faculty to treat its football idlers severely if it allows its other loafers to go on to the end of the term. I think that the most important move in university advancement in this country now is, getting rid of the idlers—all classes of idlers ; not only those who do not pass their examinations at the end of the term, but those who are not doing from day to day the work that they ought to do. When

we are ready to get rid of the other idlers, it will be easy to get rid of the football idlers.

I have the permission of the Michigan men here to say a very plain word. We had Walter Camp with us as a coach, and every influence that came from Camp was good. We had two other men from Yale afterward, Cross and Chamberlain; their influence was good, but they did not win any games. And then we had other men who did win a game. Among others we had Yost, and with Yost we won the game of that year; and what I want to get at is simply an illustration:

A young fellow came in from the mines who wanted to study mining engineering—a tremendously big and strong fellow. He was admitted because of certain symptoms of earnestness he showed—admitted as special student, having no credits whatever. He was not allowed to take part in any athletic sports whatever at Stanford, failed in his studies, and was dropped. Yost carried him to Michigan, where he has become the center of the strong team which is the pride of Michigan University; and this man, who was not able to pass any examinations when he was not playing, has been playing some ten or fifteen games a year at Michigan. And he is a type of the kind of corruption for which, in its last analysis, the faculties of the universities alone are responsible. It is up to us to see that that kind of man is not used for that kind of purpose.

There are a great many other illustrations of that sort which I might give, and I know the Michigan men will pardon me for using their particular sins when the rest of us have all been sinners. All of us who have ever had Yost or any Yost-like man about are not to be counted as sinless.

Now, if we get rid of our idlers—our men who are working simply for social recognition, those who are dissipating, those who are stupid and cannot do the work—if we will simply take the pains to get rid of them, as we need to do if they are enemies, then we shall be able to attack the athletic impostor and parasite. But it is impossible to do away with men like Gregory while we allow the other idlers who are engaged in other pursuits to remain in the institution.

I feel proud, as a representative of Stanford, where we once had Hetherington, of the work that Hetherington has done in the University of Missouri in cleaning up and purifying the condition which is made by the toleration by the university faculties of all those various evils and by the extension of the methods by which men win at any cost.

President Jesse of the University of Missouri then spoke as follows:

I think that the two most important questions that have ever been brought before the North Central Association are these: the report yesterday afternoon on accredited schools, and this discussion this morning.

Forgive me a little; I want to tell an incident which is unique, but illustrates a good point. Years ago the University of Missouri was guilty of all the low-grade athletic sins that any institution of learning could be guilty of. The sins of higher grade it perhaps avoided. The president, I must say, stood constantly against corruption in athletics, but he happened to be a simple-minded creature that has always been easy to fool and is easy to fool now. He doesn't know how to look a man in the face and question his word until he knows that man to be a liar. On a certain occasion a colporter, representing the Y. M. C. A. and its colporter work, came to the University of Missouri. He was a giant; Goliath of Gath was small beside him. He was the biggest, strongest man I ever saw. He came there to sell us Young Men's Christian Association books. The boys immediately seized upon him for the football team, and persuaded him to stop Christianizing and to go into athletic associations. The president became suspicious, and when the young man presented himself for admission he said to him: "Mr. B., are you coming into this university to play football or to study?" He put on the most injured look that I ever saw a man put on: "Sir, I am coming to study. I am engaged in this work of selling books in order that I may gain an education, and I think that I have found a good institution." That tickled me. I said: "So you propose to stay during the entire year and to complete it?" He said: "God helping me, yes." My piety—the little that I have—was excited, stimulated. He said: "If I can possibly make money to stay, I shall stay with you." I said: "Sir, I beg your pardon for asking you these questions. I feel very much mortified for having suspected the purity of your motives." We shook hands. I admitted him as a student. He played magnificently; the team won every game that year, and I even tried to meet Michigan; tried strenuously; even wrote to President Angell challenging him to a game. I thought my team was all right—a lovely team. I didn't know that it was corrupt. The president replied that the only game that he could give me would be one between himself and myself, and he thought that I would better not engage in that. At the end of the season—namely the great Thanksgiving game at Kansas City, which is the athletic representative now of the old border warfare between Kansas and Missouri—at that athletic game this fellow won a glorious victory, and we sang the song of Miriam after the passage of the Red Sea. I never saw the man after that; I have never seen him since. He disappeared in a blaze of glory, and I found out the next spring (they always let these things leak out in the spring, when it is too late for the old man to make a fuss about it) that the students had offered him no money, but he represented that if he didn't play football, but sold Young Men's Christian Association books, he would probably sell 140 copies of the book which he was chiefly representing; and the alumni down town—not the boys at the university—bought 140 copies. It was some book of piety, I don't know what; we will say *Baxter's Call to the Unconverted*. One or two other things of that sort happened, and I determined that I

would get somebody that had a better head for conducting these things than I had, and, following the example of the University of Chicago (which I commend to you in this respect), we scoured the federal Union for a director of the gymnasium, and under his control we placed all athletics from a croquet mallet and a tennis racket up to the gymnasium and the football. We strove to get a man and not a great lump of beastly muscle, and we found a man in a graduate of Stanford University taking postgraduate work at Clark University. That man has cleansed the university for us, and athletics have become with us—forgive my modesty—a means of grace. He has, with the aid of Washington University, practically cleansed the state of Missouri; but in order to keep clean ourselves we must cleanse the northern half of the Mississippi valley.

Principal E. V. Robinson of the Central High School, St. Paul, then spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is late, and I shall not say many words, but I do want to say this, that the secondary men—high-school men—are confronted with a great problem in respect to this matter, and the solution of that problem depends very largely upon the universities, because our boys in the high schools are constantly copying the universities and the colleges; and until this northern half of the Mississippi valley is somewhat cleansed it is an almost impossible problem for the high-school men to maintain any sort of purity or decency in high-school athletics. In the football contests we have had to contend with every one of the vices that have been named here, and some that have not been named. And it is becoming a very serious question indeed whether we would not have to destroy high-school athletics root and branch in order to get rid of this thing. The high school with which I am connected enrolls some 1,300 students, and aside from the routine office work, all I have had time to do this year has been to attend to athletics; and I don't think I have wasted very much time either.

I do not know what the next move is going to be. In one respect I was able to congratulate myself, and that is that we started in at the financial end of this. In my own experience I found that those who were elected to positions of control did so avowedly and openly for the purpose of grafting. And we got rid of this root and branch by means of direct and indirect faculty control. But that thing still continues between the schools. There is a Northwestern Athletic Association, which has a very high-sounding title, though it really includes only the schools of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Stillwater; and that thing is a stealing thing from start to finish. It is a notorious fact that in various ways hundreds of dollars have disappeared. And it is, so far, entirely out of the control of the faculty of any of the schools.

The control of our athletics in the high school in respect to scholarship has been a most difficult thing with us. We did not start at that end; we started at the financial end. And this year I have suspended more people from school for violating rules of scholarship with respect to athletics than for all other purposes put together. And the end is not yet. We shall not be able to establish any sort of decent condition in athletics in high schools until there is more decency in athletics in college.